



Ambassador Jeffrey L. Bleich – US Embassy, Canberra

**Remarks of Ambassador Bleich
at the US Embassy, Canberra
President Obama Introduction to Staff**

(As prepared for delivery – November 16, 2011)

It is great to welcome all of our Mission Australia family to join the 44th President of the United States.

(Just so you know, Mr. President, I get this sort of turn-out for all of my remarks to the Embassy.)

Now if there is anyone who does not need an introduction it is the President. If you don't know who he is, then you probably have made a serious mistake in your career choice.

So rather than introduce the President to you, I'd like to briefly introduce you to the President.

Mr. President, I know you've visited a lot of Embassies and you've heard some high praise for the members of our foreign service and the locally employed staff who serve those missions. But there is no finer group of public servants than the ones assembled here today with their families.

Approximately half of the members of our mission are focused in whole or in part on advancing our Nations' collective security. Many of them have served in the most difficult and demanding posts on the planet. We particularly honor those members of our armed forces, but we are equally grateful to the diplomats who served as mentors and trainers far from their loved ones who lived in these same dangerous places under the same difficult conditions. It is because of their work, and those that came before them, that we have an unrivaled security alliance with our Australian allies.

We have the same level of leadership in our non-Security work. Our Mission was honored this year as one of the top five Missions in the world to advance your National Export Initiative; we are currently ahead of schedule to double exports in Five Years. (No pressure guys). We were also honored this year as one of the top five Missions in the world for our energy and sustainability initiatives, including constructing the new LEED certified building you pass on your way in, and creating a well that keeps this lawn green without drawing any water from our neighbors. This Mission has been relentless in



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advancing your agenda at every level from fostering cooperation on Cyber, to stopping nuclear proliferation, to fighting terrorism, to promoting trade, to increasing sustainability, to ending domestic violence, and most of all to ensuring that the next generation's bond with the United States is even stronger and deeper than the generations that came before. They have also worked night and day in preparation for you and your friends' arrival. (You may not know this, but it turns out that you come with a lot more luggage than most of our other guests.)

Mr. President, of all of the privileges I have had as Ambassador, there is no privilege greater than being able to serve with the Men and Women you see before you. When we talk about the spirit of the 60th anniversary of Anzus, this is its face. These are the people who embody it. And nothing gives me more pleasure than to say this to them now:

Ladies and Gentleman, the President of the United States. Barack Obama.